

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

DIVISION OF STATEWIDE PLANNING

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January 25, 2000

Roy Matsuno
Tribal Administrator
Ugashik Traditional Village
206 E. Fireweed, #204
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Matsuno:

Thank you for your letter of January 12 concerning the Lower Peninsula Tribal Transportation Commission and your pending meeting with Senator Stevens.

Your first question pertains to how you might garner funding for feasibility and environmental studies for the proposed Trans Peninsula Road Project. Briefly, this project will be identified in the pending Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan as a future corridor. Some portions, but probably not all segments, will be identified as worthy investments in the short-term. This is because we must prioritize, both within the region, and across the state, as transportation funding remains limited in view of total needs.

Those projects identified as high priority projects must then be scheduled in the STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program). The STIP is prepared based on inputs such as the area transportation plan, community and tribal expressions of need, and other processes which identify projects such as our bridge and pavement management systems. Finally, projects within the STIP must be granted parallel legislative approval in the state's capital budget.

This entire process generally takes at minimum two years, and sometimes longer. This timeframe would be measured from the time the Southwest Transportation Plan is approved. I suspect this timeframe is not ideal in your mind, but feel it important that you understand the processes we work within. The best strategy I can suggest for now is to support the rapid conclusion of the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan.

Sincerely



Jeffery C. Ottesen, AICP
Statewide Planning Chief